

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 3, paragraph commencing on line 8, please amend as follows:

Medical information poses significant challenges to knowledge management systems. Medical information presently includes multimedia file types, including numeric data, text, scanned text images, scanned graphic images, sound (e.g., phonocardiography and dictation), high resolution images (radiology) and video (ultrasonic imaging and fluoroscopy). The medical records for an individual may, over time, grow to multiple megabytes or even gigabytes of data, and advanced medical techniques promise to increase the available data. These records come from a number of different medical service providers, and may be stored in geographically disparate locations. Often, a new medical service provider will seek to review all appropriate previous medical records for a patient. Further, in third party reimbursement situations, the third party ~~indemnity~~ indemnitor will seek to review records in connection with billed services.

Page 4, paragraph commencing on line 13, please amend as follows:

There has been a longstanding trend to computerize various forms of information, in order to make this information more accessible, to facilitate transmission, and to facilitate storage thereof. However, in the case of medical information, this has ~~resulting~~ resulted in significant concerns for the privacy and security of the information. Indeed, while the information technically cannot be disclosed without the consent of the patient, since at least the time of Hippocrates, the medical institutions that hold this information guard it jealously. Thus, it may be difficult to obtain collaboration between medical institutions in the ongoing treatment of a patient. While there are important legitimate uses for medical data, there is also a substantial possibility for abuse of the data and the associated trust relationship between patient and medical care provider represented therein. In fact, recent federal legislative and regulatory initiatives (US Department of Human Health Services) seek to regulate the creation, use, transmission and maintenance of medical information databases, and indeed may impose criminal sanctions.

Please delete text from page 73, line 12-page 75, line 3.